

Beacon On The Hill Press

Environmental Protection Agency
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

RE: Harbor Comments

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We all want clean air, clean water, and a clean earth. However, many of us do not want a solution that is based on ideologies proven to not work. What we get in return is not the best solution for cleaning the Willamette River, but rather, something that is too expensive and will cost jobs in Portland. Please understand that we are all anti-pollution, but are not in favor of decisions made in Washington that affect an area of the country about which the government knows very little. We need both federal and local collaborative input for decision making.

Turning downtown Portland into a construction nightmare would be detrimental to business. I've been in business since 2002 and my office is relatively close to where the proposed cleanup project will take place. Although we would expect noisy equipment digging into the river for years, noise is not the real reason I oppose this plan. The real issue is taking over \$1 billion to support an ideological agenda and its jobs for its true believers, instead of using that money to support economic development projects that are more beneficial to Portland and research for technological innovation to mitigate pollution for meeting clean goals, and foster input into school curricula to inspire more students to study environmental clean-up solutions. Besides, projections of how much this type of project will ultimately cost are too often underestimated.

Surely the EPA can devise better ways to deal with a polluted river than basing this plan on preconceived biases. The earth is a natural filter and the agency should not ignore the way Willamette has been naturally restoring itself from the harmful contaminants the EPA wants to dig up. Recent scientific data - not 10-year-old data that only provides a snapshot of current conditions - should be used. Active rivers change tremendously, so old science is not relevant for the decisions made today for cleaning up the river. Please rethink making such a drastic change and look for a more appropriate scientific way to resolve any contamination issues.

Sincerely,



Peter Jessen
Owner

9931 Southwest 61st Avenue
Portland, OR 97219